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INDIANA COLLECTION

Portage

PORTAGE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF AGE THIS MONTH

Portage Press June 14-79.

Portage is rapidly coming out of its "infant" stage - being exactly 20 years old this month. It was incorporated as a town in June of 1959 and became a bona-fide city having its first City Council and Mayor in January of 1968. Population has increased by leaps and bounds during the last few years growing from 11,822 in 1960 to a figure of 24,799 in November of 1977. This is due in part to major steel companies (Midwest Steel Division of National Steel Company and Bethlehem Steel Corporation) and the Port of Indiana being part of our community.

There is a need for all bustling communities to have an "image" especially during the growing pains of expansion. Although the Port creates an identity it was felt by many community members that there was a need for an "added" something to create an interest and pride within the city itself. When the Chamber of Commerce was approached by the sports car people to hold an autocross in the area the thought was that this should be an annual event which would increase in popularity each year and bring to the citizens a feeling of unity.

The Chamber fully expects that this event will become at least a two-day affair with many other events to lead up to the autocross. There are already ideas concerning marathon or foot races, beauty contests, dances, parades, and the like. All aspects now lead to the certainty that June 17 will be a fun day with much for all to enjoy and remember, encouraging anticipation for the succeeding years.